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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **August 2014**

From The Editor

Well….I had a newsletter ready to publish on time and while I was proof reading it I realized that I was pinging away about Solar Flares and CMEs (Coronal Mass Ejections) again even though we did have a close call on August 2 that had NASA a little worried. So I decided to try to not bore you again and removed most of those items.

I found a few items that may interest some of you and remembered that Frank-KJ6RWQ had sent several photos of our Field Day. So, I put them in to this newsletter. At least we will have a little club news.

I also got wind of a story about a wireless wedding that took place July 28, 1919. It was a happy time for the couple but later tragedy struck...but I'm getting ahead of myself. I took the stories verbatim from old newspaper files along with a little editing.

So, with that said here is the newsletter, late but hopefully better than never.

Jerry, KJ6SCC

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WED BY RADIO PHONE FLYING HIGH IN AIR

Army Aviator and His Fiancee In One Plane Answer Parson's Questions from Another.

THRONGS HEAR CEREMONY

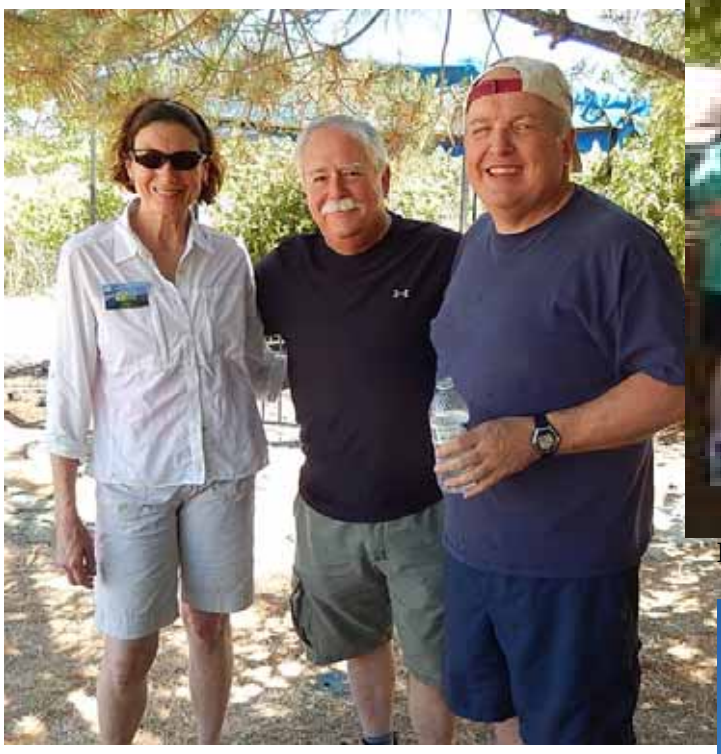
Words Wirelessed from 2,000 Feet Up to Megaphones In Grand Stand at Police Games.

Thrills of excitement and thrills of romance combined to make the second and last Saturday of the annual police games for the benefit of the Police Pension Raid yesterday the most successful entertainment of its sort in the history of the department. A record attendance at the Sheepshead Bay Speedway made the day just as successful from the standpoint of those widows and children of policemen who are to benefit by the receipts as it was from the standpoint of the spectators.

It was Governor's Day, and Governor Smith was there. So was Mayor Hylan. But with a wedding in the air as the star event of the afternoon, both Governor and Mayor were relegated to comparatively inconspicuous roles, and even when the Governor, standing out in front of the huge crowd in the grandstand, expressed his congratulations to bride and bridegroom, who just had descended from the skies while the Mayor presented the properly blushing bride with a great bouquet. It was only by reflected glory that these two officials gained the plaudits of the crowd.

Probably never in all history has there been just such a wedding. Not only did the star performers—the bride and bridegroom—ascend in one airplane driven by the bridegroom, but the clergyman ascended in another. And as If being married 2,000 feet above the earth were not enough, the couple entered into their alliance by that ultra modern device, the radiotelephone.

While the great throng sat hushed and immobile in the stands the knot was tied, and by means of megaphones attached to one of the radio telephone receivers and pointed



Diane & Mike Vieria and Jerry Olive-A great trio

Daily Republic reporter interviews George, KK4XU

Jerry, KD6WKY says 'Almost Ready'

Heh, Heh, I just bagged a big one

Simplicity makes life very easy and ready to go anytime

Man, She's making a bunch of contacts

I have to be careful about driving under bridges

Oh, Oh, QRM

Ready to go portable anywhere

Everybody's communicating

Hello, Hello, Anybody there.

The early Sunday risers

Suddenly, the sun is eerily quiet: Where did the sunspots go?

By Deborah Netburn
SpaceAstronomical EventsAstronomy and AstrophysicsSolar Storms (2012)NASA

For the first time in 3 years, astronomers see no sunspots on our nearest star.

Solar observers watched as our sun grew eerily quiet Suddenly the sun goes quiet. Our sun has gone quiet. Almost too quiet.

A few weeks ago it was teeming with sunspots, as you would expect since we are supposed to be in the middle of solar maximum — the time in the sun's 11-year cycle when it is the most active.

Look Ma! No Sunspots; No Flares!!

A nearly spot-free sun as viewed by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory on July 18. (Solar Dynamics Observatory/NASA)

But now, there is hardly a sunspot in sight. If you look closely at the image above, taken on July 18 by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, you will see a tiny smidge of brown just right of center where a small sunspot appears to be developing. But just one day before, there truly was nothing. It was a totally spotless day.

So what's going on here? Is the "All Quiet Event" as solar physicist Tony Phillips dubbed it, a big deal or not?

"It is weird, but it's not super weird," said Phillips, who writes about solar activity on his website SpaceWeather.com. "To have a spotless day during solar maximum is odd, but then again, this solar maximum we are in has been very wimpy."

Researchers Crack the Mystery of the Missing Sunspots

In 2008-2009, sunspots almost completely disappeared for two years. Solar activity dropped to hundred-year lows; Earth's upper atmosphere cooled and collapsed; the sun's magnetic field weakened, allowing cosmic rays to penetrate the Solar System in record numbers. It was a big event, and solar physicists openly wondered, *where have all the sunspots gone?*
Now they know. An answer is being published in the March 3rd edition of *Nature*.

"Plasma currents deep inside the sun interfered with the formation of sunspots and prolonged solar minimum," says lead author Dibyendu Nandi of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Kolkata. "Our conclusions are based on a new computer model of the sun's interior.

Plato (429-347 BC) remarked, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS
President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

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Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS
Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

For These Vets, Amateur Radio Remains Alive

From the Washington Wire Journal
By JULIAN E. BARNES

Adm. Scott Redd operates a ham radio from Union, Maine, during a contest in which he set an American record for the highest number of contacts — 5,609 — in two days. (Photo provided by Scott Redd)

Satellites killed the military radio star operator long ago, but military veterans keep the art alive in competitions testing their ability to bounce signals off the ionosphere and contact amateur radio stations a half world away.

In their minds, the contestants know technology has gone too far and the days of radio are past. Still, the intimate knowledge of the electromagnetic spectrum learned during a career in military and intelligence agencies offers some advantages. And the military's love for antiquated communications is well established—from their use of signal flags to messages sent, teletype-style, in all capital letters. Ham radio competitions elicit a similar passion—and knowledge of some dying skills.

Current and former military service members will anchor two of the top teams gathering in the Boston area this weekend for what amounts to the World Cup of ham radio, officially the World Radiosport Team Championship 2014.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. **Scott Redd**, the former head of the National Counterterrorism Center, is on one of the teams expected to compete for top honors. Current Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer **Dave Mueller** is on another top team with NetApp CEO **Tom Georgens**. Serving as the grand marshal of the event is Retired Navy Adm. **Edmund Giambastiani**, the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, himself a ham radio buff.

The event, once every four years, requires teams of two people using identical equipment to contact as many radio operators in as many places as possible in 24 hours. In all, 59 teams from 38 countries are competing.

The basic technology of the radio and the technique of propagating signals has not changed radically. But ham radios, with station automation, computer connections and improved amplification take advantage of technological advances. "Layered on top is relatively cutting edge technology," said Mr. Georgens. "There is a massive application of technology to drive operator efficiency."

Winning strategies involve knowing when to try to make huge numbers of rapid contracts in countries that have hundreds of Ham radio stations, like Germany and Russia, and when to pursue contacts on obscure islands that have only one operator, like St. Pierre and Miquelon, a French territory off the coast of Newfoundland.

"The winner of this event will be the one who makes the least amount of mistakes, is able to best engineer a station and troubleshoot problems," said Chief Warrant Officer Mueller.

The winners also will have to stay awake, Adm. Giambastiani notes. The contest requires operators to making the most of every minute in a 24-hour competition. So contestants must chug enough caffeine to keep focused constantly.

"Fatigue will set in," said Adm. Giambastiani. "The harder part for the older guys is their bodies aren't as tough as the youngsters. By 4 in the morning on Sunday you are asking why am I doing this."

At 69 years old, Adm. Redd, a member of the amateur radio hall of fame, is one of the oldest contestants. He

W6VVR Blog & Facebook

If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our new Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away.

Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are.

One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century. **Thanks to Frank KJ6EWQ**

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

acknowledges the young guys have some advantages, but notes he set a world record last year at age 68. "You can stay competitive in old age and there are not many sports where you do that," he said.

The sea services' love for antiquated communications is well established—from their use of signal flags to messages sent, teletype-style, in all capital letters. Ham radio competitions illicit a similar passion—and knowledge of some dying skills.

The amateur radio contests require mastery of Morse Code, something no longer routinely taught in the military, as well as the ability to bounce radio signals off the ionosphere to reach lonely outposts half a world away.

There are some real world military applications, participants note. Special operation forces still use long range radio signals as do Coast Guard cutters on occasion. Chief Warrant Officer Mueller remembers being on a Coast Guard cutter a few years ago as a the radio operator struggled to establish communications. He stepped in with some recommendations for frequency changes gleaned from his years as a ham radio operator.

There is a strong dose of nostalgia in the competition—most the American competitors all have stories of tuning old ham radio sets in their attics in their youth or learning Morse code with the Boy Scouts. For some young people, building and operating radios in the '50s and '60s was like learning to code their own app today and send it out on the Internet.

Adm. Redd's life-long love of ham radio was cemented in 1959 when he struck up a long-distance conversation with an airman he knew as "Butch" serving at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Butch invited the young Scott Redd to visit him if he ever traveled from his home in Iowa to Offutt. When he, his uncle and cousins showed up at the gate one day, the guards at first snickered at them.

"There was a series of phone calls and the guard started standing more and more erect," Adm. Redd recalled. "All of a sudden it was 'Yes, sir.'"

The visitors were escorted in to meet Lt. Gen. **Francis "Butch" Griswold**, the top deputy to the head of Strategic Air Command, Gen. **Curtis LeMay**.

Over the years, Adm. Redd began competing in ham radio operators, and in 1971 won four out of the five major radio contests held at the time. He had to slow down when he made flag officer, but took it up with gusto again in 2007 when he stepped down from leading the National Counterterrorism Center. Two years later, he won all six major single-operator contests.

"I always wanted to win all the contests, but it took another 35 years before I could get back into it," he said. "You couldn't do that in boxing."

Ham Radio Aids in Rescue of Injured Colorado Hiker

While Bill Eberle, AB0MY, of Boulder, Colorado, and his wife Mary were hiking in the back country on July 21, they encountered a team of paramedics rendering aid to a 67-year-old man -- Michael Schuett, of Broomfield, Colorado -- who had lost his footing while crossing a stream. Schuett had struck his head on a boulder and was found unconscious and face down in the water by another hiker, who had pulled him to safety. The paramedics, en route to a youth camp, also had stumbled onto the scene.

Lacking cell telephone coverage, Eberle put out a distress call on the hand-held transceiver he always takes along when he hikes. Promptly answering his call on the statewide Colorado Connection Repeater system was Ryan Frederick, KD0TSZ, in Colorado Springs. Frederick contacted the Boulder County Sheriff's office. Authorities quickly turned to Scott Whitehead, KA0QPT, of Longmont, a sheriff's department radio specialist and 30-year veteran of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Team. Whitehead was able to contact Eberle via the repeater network, and the two coordinated equipment and rescue personnel.

Schuett was evacuated from the scene, treated at an area hospital, and released. He credited ham radio for bringing the rescuers to him. -- Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)

at the spectators from various places, every syllable of the service was audible to all. By a curious coincidence the most clearly audible of all that was said was the bride's firm "I will." spoken at the proper moment in the ceremony.

Miss Emily Schaeffer of Sea Gate was the bride and Lieutenant George Burgess of the Army Aviation Corps was the bridegroom. The Rev. Alexander Wouters performed the ceremony. When the proper time arrived the couple left their seats in the grandstand, entered automobiles and were driven to the waiting airplanes. Best man and maid of honor accompanied them. Arriving at the chariots in which they were to wed, they donned conventional flying clothes, the bride putting on the usual aviator's helmet and bifurcated suit over her wedding finery. Then the bridegroom, driving his own plane, and the clergyman going up with a fellow officer, they soared to good flying height. There, the two machines straightened out in the clear sky and circled slowly back and forth.

The bride's mother was among those who saw her start on her unique wedding Journey, and in response to questions from reporters declared herself entirely unafraid.

For a few seconds the spectators heard nothing but the steady hum of the propellers, then there sounded a "Hello, hello, hello!" It was the bridegroom's voice, and in response to an inquiry the minister could be heard saying, "Yes, yes, I hear you."

After that there was the regular wedding ceremony.

Once It was over the two pilots quickly sent their craft earthward, landing lightly. Lieutenant and Mrs. Burgess climbed out and cane back to receive the Governor's congratulations, the Mayors flowers, and the approving roar of the multitude.

Unfortunately the story ends in tragedy later

BURNED TO DEATH

Army Aviator and Newspapermen Are Victims of Air Accident

Engine Trouble Causes Accident

Charred Bodied Of Trio Found Strapped In Machine When Fire Department Arrives

NEW SALEM, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1925 – An Army aviator and two newspapermen lost their lives when the plane of Lieutenant George H. Burgess fell near here late Friday.

Burgess was instantly killed, Maurice Hutton, Aviation Editor of the Dayton Daily Herald and Vern Timmerman, a photographer for the same newspaper, were burned to death.

The three were flying to the Army Aviation Field at Selfridge Field, Michigan, when the crash came. New Salem is 42 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Lieutenant Burgess was crushed to death by the engine of the plane, as the machine caught fire, and the two Dayton men, strapped to their seats and unable to move, were burned to death with no chance to escape. As the plane flew westward between Uniontown and New Salem, it faltered. Engine trouble caused the machine to sputter and dip. A second plane, seemingly aware of the trouble, kept close.

A half mile south of New Salem, witnessed said, the machine struck a tree on a hill but careened crazily on it course for another half mile at a height of about 100 feet.

Then there was an explosion and the plane burst into flames. It struck a hill and crashed into a barbed wire fence. The chassis with everything a mass of flame bumped its way around the field.

The New Salem Fire Department was first on the scene but was called too late to give any assistance. The bodies of the three were strapped in the machine, charred almost beyond recognition, and it was evident that the explosion and the fire had prevented the escape of the trio from the damaged plane. They are now in an undertaking parlor at New Salem, awaiting word from relatives.

Coroner's Jury Holds Burgess Blameless in Fatal Crash

UNIONTOWN, Pennsylvania, October 17, 1925 – The airplane crash at New Salem near here yesterday in which Lieutenant George J. Burgess, Maurice Hitton, Aviation Editor, and Verne Timmerman, photographer of the Dayton (Ohio) Herald, were killed was due to engine trouble and Lieutenant Burgess was in no way to blame, according to the Coroner's Jury.

Born in 1893 he was an early Army aviator. He was killed in the line of duty in 1925 and lies buried in the midst of some of the casualties of the crash of the airship USS Shenandoah in Section 3 of Arlington National Cemetery.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

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